

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16, 40-65, and 78-90 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13-16, 40-43, 45-48, 50-53, 60, 62, 64, and 65 have been amended. Support for those amendments can be found in the application as filed. Support for the amendments to claims 11 and 60 can be found, for example, at page 24, line 4 of the specification as filed. Support for the amendments to claims 15 and 64 can be found, for example, at page 18, line 32.

New claims 78-90 have been added. Support for new claim 78 can be found in the application as filed, for example at Example 1. Support for new claims 79, 89, and 90 can be found, for example, at page 19, lines 3 and 28. Support for new claims 80 and 81 can be found, for example, in the Examples and the claims as originally filed. Support for new claim 82 can be found, for example, at page 13, lines 3-6. Support for new claim 83 can be found, for example, at page 28, line 22. Support for new claim 84 can be found, for example, at page 19, line 23. Support for new claim 85 can be found, for example, at page 15, lines 16-17. Support for new claims 86-88 can be found, for example, at page 18, lines 5-8.

II. Status of Claims 66-68

In the Office Action dated May 17, 2006, claims 66-68 were removed from the elected claims and added to the non-elected group of claims. Accordingly, claims 66-68 were cancelled. In order to make a restriction requirement, a showing that the claims

are independent and distinct is required. While it appears that a statement or showing to that effect was inadvertently omitted in the last Office Action, since these claims were removed from the elected group of claims and added to the non-elected group of claims, it is presumed that claims 66-68 are independent and distinct from the elected group of claims. However, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to confirm that claims 66-68 are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art from the elected group of claims.

III. Application No. 11/154,208

During prosecution, a provisional double patenting rejection over claims in copending Application No. 11/154, 208 was raised and then held in abeyance. Since that rejection was never raised again and the claims were later deemed allowable, Applicants assume that the rejection was withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the pending claims and reexamination of the application. The timely allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Please grant any extension of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account No. 05-0221.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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June 22, 2007
Date